



PRESS RELEASE – immediate distribution

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DANGERS OF MISUSE OF HOLIDAY CARAVANS

Trade association warns that misuse poses risk to ‘staycation’ trend

The NCC (National Caravan Council), the trade association for the UK leisure vehicle industry, has issued a stark warning to potential buyers of caravan holiday homes.

Purchasers must understand that a caravan or lodge they buy on a holiday park is for leisure use only and that, potentially, they could face eviction from their chosen park if they live there.

The NCC said: “Due to the popularity of ‘staycations’ and the holiday home lifestyle, there is continuing growth in holiday home sales, but new buyers need to be aware that a holiday home is for *holidays*.

“Holiday parks are licensed by the Local Authority for holiday and recreational use.

“To live permanently in a holiday caravan/lodge could have serious consequences, including the risk of being required to leave the park. Holiday park operators also risk enforcement action and penalties from local authorities.

“The problem of holiday caravans being used as a main home is not new and the current high property prices and shortage of affordable housing can be factors that drive misuse.

“No-one wants to face the challenges of finding somewhere new to live, so the best way to avoid that terrible situation is to make sure it does not happen to begin with.

“When owners are found living on a holiday park, local authorities may take enforcement action against the park if there are persistent breaches of planning, or if the conditions they imposed in the park’s site are routinely ignored.

“The park will also take action to remedy the situation (e.g. by termination of the holiday home owner’s licence agreement) because it risks losing its site licence if it doesn’t comply with site licence conditions. So, if you are thinking of buying a holiday caravan, make sure you are clear how and when you can use it.”

The NCC has developed new Licence Agreements which its holiday park members use, making this and other restrictions very clear. There is also a free leaflet for holiday home owners, [‘Making the best use of your caravan holiday home/holiday lodge’](#) available on www.thencc.org.uk which explains this in detail.

“Holiday homes offer superb leisure break opportunities, but misuse can limit availability. As more people embrace the staycation trend and discover the benefits of holidays and short breaks in the UK, we want to make sure that everyone has the opportunity of enjoying caravan holiday homes and get the most out of their leisure time.”

Ends

Editors' notes

The NCC (National Caravan Council) is the trade body for the UK leisure vehicle and park home industry, which consists of four sectors - caravan holiday homes, touring caravans, motorhomes and residential park homes. The NCC represents over 870 member outlets within park operations, manufacturing, distribution and retailing, and specialist suppliers and services.

The NCC's Licence Agreement used by its holiday park members clearly and fairly set out the rights caravan holiday home owners have. It includes, for example, the ways owners can sell their home and details of pitch fees (the charges paid each year to keep the caravan on the park).

It is essential that all buyers of caravan holiday homes read their Licence Agreement thoroughly beforehand, and only commit if they are happy with and understand all its contents.